



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

Date: 5/1/14

Ashley Grimes
508 E Rose Ave
Des Moines, IA 50315

Date Complaint Received: 4/25/14

Complaint Received By: DHS

Complaint Description: The Department received a complaint concerning someone in the household potentially dealing drugs out of the home.

Rule Basis: Findings considered in accordance to Rule(s) 110.5(1) "Conditions in the home are safe, sanitary, and free of hazards."

Findings: Unannounced spot check conducted on 4/28/14 by two DHS workers. Two unapproved adults were found in the home during another visit on 4/25/14. We conducted in depth interview regarding the status of these two adults. Neither of them was present on 4/28/14 and Ashley reported she required her cousin to move out over the weekend. We had full access to the home, no signs of anyone living in the home aside from Ashley and her children. Ashley denied any drug use or dealing in the home at any time.

Resolution: Per spot check visit and interviews, no preponderance of evidence to indicate any drugs are being dealt out of the home, nor any non-compliance with this specific complaint claim. However, other areas of non-compliance were discovered during the check as described below.

Items of non-compliance not directly implied in the complaint though discovered during the complaint based spot check:

1. Rule(s) 110.5(1)h "A safe outdoor play area is maintained in good condition throughout the year." The garage in the back yard play area had a gutter that had torn loose during a past storm. Half of the gutter was bent and hanging down to the ground. Sharp edges and metal were present, needs to be repaired/removed immediately.
2. Rule(s) 110.5(1)e "All accessible electrical outlets are safety capped." Electrical outlet in downstairs play area had a missing face plate and needs to be repaired.
3. Rule(s) 110.5(9)a "Gives careful supervision at all times." Ashley admitted to allowing children to play in several locations simultaneously including back yard, side yard, and inside the home. Per set-up of the yards and home, she is unable to access or observe children in all these locations at one time.
4. Rule(s) 110.5(2)c "An individual file is maintained for each staff assistant and contains..." Ashley has a practice of using people to assist in her operation before applying and being approved by DHS with appropriate background checks and training. During spot check

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Ashley's sister was present in the home and identified as one of the assistants she is using though she has not been approved by DHS.

5. Rule(s) 110.5(1) "Conditions in the home are safe, sanitary, and free of hazards." Ashley admitted she allowed a homeless cousin to temporarily move in with her without first applying to add him to the household and/or complete appropriate background checks.

Resolution: Lengthy review with provider Ashley Grimes regarding policy, priorities to children being watched, and her documented history in struggling to maintain compliance with DHS rules. We reviewed that a developing pattern of non-compliance as we are starting to see with her will lead to revocation of her registration. Ashley signed a DHS safety plan agreeing to: not allow any unapproved adults into her home, ensure all kids are supervised at all times, comply with spot checks and re-checks, not allow anyone using or possessing drugs around her children.

Ashley will receive a corrective action check list which will include a change application to properly add any assistants she might want to use in the future. Ashley will be re-checked on or after 6/19/14 to assure complete compliance with all DHS rules.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl Crow".

Earl Crow
Child Development Home Compliance Checks
DHS, Story County
(515) 268-7106